



Monthly Newsletter Serving the
Defense Logistics Agency Community

September 2002 - Volume 1, Issue 4

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING (EPP)

*Providing Buyers, Catalogers and Item Specialists
The Information Busy People Need to Keep Current*

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New Estimate for CPG IV Final Rule

The latest input from the EPA regarding promulgation of the new final rule expanding the list of CPG items is the end of the calendar year. No alterations to the original list published in August of 2000 are anticipated at this time. Watch this space for future updates as they become available.

EPA Supplier Database

EPA has set up a supplier database at its CPG website where potential CPG item purchasers can search for suppliers. Intended for all general use, it includes both commercial suppliers as well as DLA and GSA. A quick search for suppliers for re-refined oil returned DSCR as a supplier. However, a search for various construction materials, such as floor coverings and structural fiberboard, did not return DSCP as a supplier. A search of the master database revealed DSCR listed for a single product only - re-refined oil; and revealed no listings at all for DSCP or DSCC. ICPs may wish to visit the EPA CPG supplier website at http://www.ergweb2.com/cpg/user/cpg_search.cfm and follow the instructions for submitting a "Supplier Information Form" to be sure that all DLA sources are listed for all CPG items they carry.

2002 RCRA 6002 Reporting Format

All ICPs that sell CPG items will be interested in a new RCRA 6002 reporting format distributed by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive on September 20. The new report is due mid-March 2003, and the new format is a significant departure from previous year's reports. Rather than tracking all 54 CPT products, it tracks 8 "indicator" items and will require that agencies adopt management controls to meet the RCRA and E.O. 13101 requirements. The 8 "indicator items" are: Commercial Sanitary Tissue

Products, Toner Cartridges, Concrete, Landscaping Timbers, Park Benches and Picnic Tables, Traffic Barricades, Re-refined Oil and Signage. A new addition is the need to report purchases made through service contracts and includes information reported through the Federal Procurement Data System. The new reporting system was agreed by the Reporting Workgroup, the EO 13101 Interagency Advisory Group (EOIAG), and the Senate staff with oversight responsibility.

According to the OFFE, the Reporting Workgroup intended that these changes would prompt agencies to implement appropriate auditing and management controls. This is consistent with the principals governing implementation of an ISO-like environmental management system. Cooperation between environmental and procurement functions will be necessary to complete the new report, and DLA has been tasked to provide the item-specific data. Future plans are for DLA to enable each installation to report track and report its own purchases of reportable items.

The new format will be discussed at a meeting between DLA DSS-E and the ICPs on Oct 2, and subsequently at an APP Work Group meeting to be hosted by DUSD(I&E)/EQ.

Low or No Volatile Organic Content Products

The most recent nationally compiled data on VOC emissions (1999) shows the three states with the highest VOC emissions are Texas (1.4 million tons), California (just over 1 million tons) and Florida (just under 1 million tons). These states also host significant DoD industrial facilities and installation level maintenance activities. When inhaled directly, VOCs cause long term adverse health effects, when released outdoors they cause smog and respiratory ailments, and when released in water and soils can cause contamination of drinking water and harm to aquatic life. As a result, the EPA has determined regulation of VOCs, particularly in urban areas, to be a priority.

A recent study conducted for DLA revealed that vendors of low-VOC products were aware of the GSA Advantage program, but not as aware of DLA. An informal telephone survey of vendors of low-VOC products showed a near universal perception that getting listed in government procurement catalogues was very bureaucratic and required special knowledge. Some perceived a “chicken and egg problem”, in that getting listed was nearly impossible unless government customers demanded the product but no one would request the product if it wasn't listed. Others did not view government customers as particularly important to overall sales because they believe government sales produce smaller profit margins and do not justify the perceived bureaucratic hurdles. Based on these findings, it appears DLA may suffer a perception problem with vendors, and may wish to consider an outreach program targeted at low-VOC products as a way of increasing the number of low-VOC products designated in FLIS. For a list of vendors, see the South Coast Air Quality Management District website: <http://www.aqmd.gov/tao/cas/prolist.html>. The report will be posted at HQ DLA's DSS-E website in the near future. The URL will be announced here once it's posted.

Energy Efficiency

The conference committee reconciling House and Senate versions of an energy bill were expected to complete work by the end of September, but did not. It is not clear whether energy legislation will pass this year. The House version contained a provision that would require DLA to only energy-using products, products rated in the top 25 percent of energy efficiency, or designated by FEMP. Updates will be provided as they become available.

DSCP teamed with DoE to issue an RFP energy efficient air-cooled unitary air conditioners with cooling capacities between 65,000 and 135,000 Btu/hour. These are the most commonly used sizes for smaller commercial-style buildings, such as small offices, retail stores, schools, health care facilities, warehouses, barracks, restaurants, hotels/motels, and public buildings. DSCP may wish to consider supplying contractors bidding on exchange, barracks, dining hall and other MILCON projects or supplying contractors providing maintenance services.

Water Conservation

Product Highlight - The Low-Flow Toilet

Talk about getting no respect...Rodney Dangerfield has nothing to complain about compared to the poor low-flow toilet. We've all heard horror stories about 1.6-gallons-per-flush (gpf) toilets - how they don't work or save water because you have to double flush. There was even a “black market” for 3.5gpf toilets in some areas. One member of Congress even introduced legislation to repeal low-flow toilet requirement from the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to “get government out of our bathrooms.” While early efforts to adapt the new low-flow requirements resulted in low-quality and dissatisfied consumers, toilet technology has come a long way the past 10 years. When the national standards went into effect, some manufacturers just modified their existing toilets to used less water, but because they weren't designed for the lower water flow they didn't work well. This resulted in a backlash and a bad rap. Eventually, gravity-flush toilets gave way to pressure-flush toilets. These are well accepted, and work well with one flush. As the norm went from 6gpf to 3.5 and then to 1.6, the country has seen significant savings in water and energy consumption, and with new toilet technology customer satisfaction has continued to rise. To put the importance of toilets in

perspective, they account for 26.7 percent of all indoor water use, according to a 1999 study of 14 cities by the American Water Works Association Research Foundation. With many regions in a chronic or long-term water shortage, water costs are increasing and conservation is becoming more important. Low flow toilets are available through DSCP.

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